

The Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center opens for its 51st season this Saturday, May 30. It looks to be another exciting, family-friendly season this summer.

During the first couple weeks, the pool will have abbreviated hours because school is still in session, check the city website www.ci.evansville.wi.gov or the 2009 Pool Brochure for the early season schedule. Beginning June 10, the pool will keep its regular hours and be open weekdays from 12:45 to 4:30 and in the evenings from 7 to 9, on Saturdays from 1 to 5, and on Sundays from 1 to 5 and 7 to 9.

A special section for lap swimming is available in the evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 weekdays and during all open hours on weekends. Water aerobics is taught on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:00. The lap swim and aerobics are flexible to your schedule with pay-per-use rates.

Swimming lessons and life guard training are offered as well as the opportunity to join the Evansville Swim. Our lifeguards have typically worked at the pool for several years, starting in the basket room and park store and moving up to instructor and lifeguard positions. The pool is well supervised; lifeguards have CPR, first aid, and AED training. Whether during swim lessons or during open swim, kids learn appropriate and safe behavior around water.

Three sessions of swimming lessons are offered: late June, mid July, and early August. In addition to their lifeguard training, our six swimming instructors are certified under the Red Cross Water Safety Instructor (WSI) program, and classes are taught according to the Red Cross curriculum. Different level classes are structured for different proficiency swimmers; have your child progress through all the levels. For lower level classes, parents are welcome to join their child in the water. Private, individualized lessons are also available.

Concessions and refreshments are available at the Park Store, located next to the pool. At various times throughout the summer, special events are held at the Evansville pool, including "pool parties," sponsored by local radio stations. The pool party scheduled for Friday, July 3, will feature games and music.

The Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act is a new federal law. It requires all (new and existing) public pools to have safety covers over suction outlets, unblockable outlets, automatic pump shut-off, or other similar features to prevent entrapment and drowning.

Early this spring the city hired Ramaker & Associates to perform the necessary design work and Badger Pools to construct the appropriate modifications. Our renovations consisted of removing the existing cover and drain assembly, installing a new compliant main drain system and equalizer line suction covers, and patching around the new drain. All went well. And the State of Wisconsin approved Evansville's pool in compliance with the new federal law. Including the inspection fees and permit, the total project cost about \$8200.

The swimming pool is open to the public during the summer months, fully equipped with locker rooms, showers, highly-trained lifeguards, a zero-depth entry area for young children and

inexperienced swimmers (new in 2005), inner tubes, water basketball, a diving board, and two slides.